

A/AC	Coord	Copy Provided	A/CC	Appr
A/DO	Coord	Copy Provided		
A/LG	Coord	Copy Provided		
A/CS	Coord			
A/CV	Coord			

Krasinski, Major XPDSW 3054 cb 17 Aug 79

Switch of Defense Meteorological Satellite
Program (DMSP) from THOR to ATLAS 18 AUG 1979

1. The message opposite (Atch 1) provides ADCOM's response to the HQ USAF message (Atch 2) tasking ADCOM and AFSC to identify any advantages or disadvantages other than cost of transferring DMSP from 10th Aerospace Defense Squadron (10 AERODS) THOR launch operations to ATLAS contractor launch operations. On 14 Aug 79 the suspense in the HQ USAF message was verbally changed from 16 Aug to 17 Aug by someone between Lt Col Whitehead, HQ USAF/AFSC, and Major Krasinski, ADCOM/XPDSW. AFSC (SAMSO) was tasked to identify the funding and manpower deltas for this study. Since DMSP is the only user of 10 AERODS launch services any decision to transfer DMSP launch services to contractor ATLAS operations would most likely cause the Air Staff to direct deactivation of the unit; therefore, additional information is included identifying the real issue which is whether the policy which established the requirement of continuing a military space launch capability is to be changed.

2. Last September, SAMSO initiated unilateral action which culminated in a briefing recommending the transfer of DMSP launch services to the ATLAS booster due to potential DMSP future weight growth. When this briefing was presented at HQ ADCOM in September 1978, General Hill, CINCPAC, requested a joint ADCOM and AFSC study be conducted. Subsequently, a joint briefing was developed and presented to General Slay, AFSC/CC, in early November 1978. General Slay directed DMSP to maintain its program baseline and continue using 10 AERODS/THOR launch services.

3. The HQ USAF message at attachment 2 reopened this issue. An advanced copy of the AFSC (SAMSO) input is included at attachment 3. This input does not make a recommendation, but shows the ATLAS booster to be approximately \$10 million less expensive over the next five years (FY80-FY85) than the THOR booster. The AFSC (SAMSO) input is a "re-run" of their position last fall and ADCOM has the same disagreements (i.e., cost figures, disadvantages, advantages, and the ignoring of the future of the military space launch capability).

We have been pursuing other missions for the 10 AERODS. Near term, the launch of the SCOUT space booster from both Vandenberg AFB and Wallops Island is the most promising alternative space launch

1979
Item 48/28

mission for 10 AERODS. In addition, A/XPB is pursuing several Space Defense related missions in which the 10 AERODS may have an active role. They include the Air Launched-Miniature Vehicle system; the Ground Launched Miniature Vehicle Option; the Conventional Segment Option; and the launch of the Instrumented Test Vehicle by the SCOUT. Mid-term planning identifies 10 AERODS participation in the Survivable Launch program. Long-range projections call for 10 AERODS involvement in support for the Shuttle and the Reusable Aerodynamic Space Vehicle (RASV) programs.

RECOMMENDATION

5. Staff coordination and CINCPAC approval to transmit A/XP message opposite responding to the HQ USAF message on switching DMSP from 10 AERODS launch operations to ATLAS contractor operations.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

WILLIAM E. LINDEMAN, BrigGen, USAF
DCS/Plans and Programs, ADCOM

3 Atchs

1. Proposed A/XP Msg
2. HQ USAF/RDS Msg 101700Z Jul 79
3. DMSP Transition to ATLAS Funding and Manpower Impact

(Attachments not available.)